REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, and 14 are currently pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 10, and 13 are amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, including the claims, as originally filed. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully solicited.

In section 1 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-11, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,509,974 (Hansen). In section 6 of the Office Action, claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen. Applicants respectfully traverse.

To anticipate under Section 102, a single reference must disclose, either expressly or inherently, each and every limitation recited in a claim. As Hansen fails to disclose at least rules as recited in the claims, it does not anticipate the claimed subject matter.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

> a workflow creator for creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required in order to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on attributes designated by the designator,
> wherein the workflow creator comprises:
> a rule storage unit for storing rules, bringing processes required to construct the workflow and parameter values for the processes into correspondence with each attribute selectable for the image recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media, in advance.

Independent claims 10, and 13 each recite, *inter alia*,

> creating the workflow by deciding upon processes required in order to make the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes based on designated attributes,
> wherein the workflow creating step comprises the steps of:

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reading rules, bringing processes required to construct the workflow and parameter values for the processes into correspondence with each attribute selectable for the image recording media, for creating the workflow for making the image recording media.

The Office Action asserts that Hansen discloses rules as recited in the claims, relying on Hansen's statement that "the resource allocator can include 'policies' or predefined rules for handling particular capability 'requests'" (Hansen, col. 18, lines 51-53). With respect to these "policies," Hansen, at col. 18, lines 53-62, states:

A policy can be implemented to force the whole document to print on a particular resource, ignoring the special attribute of those pages with the attribute set. In addition, a policy can be set to always "satisfy the capability request" and route pages to resources with the desired capability. Further, a policy can be set to request manual operator intervention when a page with a specially requested capability passes through the resource allocator to have the operator determine the best course of action.

However, as Hansen does not disclose necessary information for setting the disclosed policies, it does not anticipate the recited "rules, bringing processes required to construct the workflow and parameter values for the processes into correspondence with each attribute selectable for the image recording media." Further, manual operator intervention is occasionally requested, as described above. Thus, troublesomeness involved in the creation of a workflow is not dramatically reduced.

In contrast to Hansen's policies, the rules recited in the independent claims are for constructing a workflow from attribute values selectable as attribute values of the image recording media constituting the finally resulting product and bring processes required to construct the workflow and parameter values for the processes into correspondence with the selectable attribute values. Thereby, as explained in the application, troublesomeness involved in the creation of a workflow can be dramatically reduced, and, as a result, the operation of the printing and prepressing manufacturing system is more efficient.
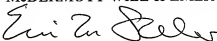
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As Hansen fails to disclose, or even suggest, "rules" as recited in each of independent claims 1, 10, and 13, Hansen does not anticipate the claimed subject matter. The further official notice regarding double-clicking discussed in sections 9 and 10 does not bridge the gap between the claims and Hansen. Accordingly, the claims are not obvious in view of the cited art. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 1, 10, and 13, and the remainder of the pending claims, which depend thereon.

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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